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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,973	02/11/2004	Yunlong Sun	50001/91:2 US	7445
7590 Sandra K. Szczerbicki Suite 2600 900 SW Fifth Avenue Portland, OR 97204-1268		12/28/2006	EXAMINER ELVE, MARIA ALEXANDRA	
			ART UNIT 1725	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/28/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/777,973	SUN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Alexandra Elve	1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8, 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cordingley et al. (USPAP 2002/0167581).

Cordingley et al. discloses an improved thermal based laser method for processing a predetermined microstructure formed on a substrate without causing undesirable changes in electrical and physical characteristics of the substrate or other structures formed on the substrate. Multi-material and layered materials and wafers are processed. Copper links are removed on multilevel devices. Additionally, microscopic holes can be drilled. Laser processing is thermal based. The laser energy used is about 60 to 70% of laser energy required for laser processing.

A q-switched pulse laser may be used, as well as a mode-locked system. Fiber amplification is an option. IR, UV and green spectrum lasers are used to blow copper links. Wavelengths may be chosen based on the substrate properties, with the typically value being 1.047 um. Repetition rates range from 1uHz to 20KHz to 60 MHz (mode lock system). Beam spot, pulse width, energy pulse values are all selected to ensure

optimal processing. Pulse widths of less than 5 nanoseconds are used (few picoseconds to nanoseconds). Multiple pulses may be used (259). In order to limit thermal diffusion and hence negate substrate damage, pulse energies range from 0.1 microjoules to 3 microjoules. The position and depth of focus of the beam is selected to ensure that the substrate is processed without creating undesirable changes to other materials. Additionally, the system normalizes the defocus function. Figure 15a shows the focusing optics and beam guidance. (abstract, figures, 0005, 0007, 0009, 0016, 0024-0029, 0034, 0036, 0046, 0057-0058, 0083-0091, 0095-0096, 0106, 0109, 0112-0113, 0115, 0117-0120, 0122, 0125-0126, 0134, 0137-0152, 0165, 0190, 0193, 0195-0196, 0198, 0200-0201, 0204, 0210, 0220-0221, 0226)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordingley et al., as stated in the above paragraph and further in view of Owen et al. (USPN 5,841,099).

Cordingley et al. teaches drilling holes, but not blind vias.

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Owen et al. discloses the use of a q-switched laser to drill vias and blind vias in multilayer materials (metallic and dielectric layers). (abstract)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to drill blind vias, as taught by Owen et al. in the Cordingley et al. system because this is merely a specific type of hole drilling.

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordingley et al., as stated in the above paragraph and further in view of Fahey et al. (WO 03/002289 A1).

Cordingley et al. discloses the processing of wafers but not dicing.

Fahey et al. discloses the dicing or wafers using an IR laser with differing wavelengths. (abstract)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to dice wafers, as taught by Fahey et al. in the Cordingley et al. system because it is merely a specific type of wafer processing.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordingley et al. as stated in the above paragraph and further in view of the following.

Cordingley et al. teaches a range of wavelengths, which are selected, based on the processing operations needs. It is well settled that where patentability is predicated upon a change in a condition of prior process, that is, the wavelength, the change must be at least critical, that is, it must lead to a new and unexpected result. The applicant

has the burden of providing such proof of criticality. Note In re Aller et al. 105 USPQ 223.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/10/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Cordingley et al. does not teach dimensional stability. The examiner respectfully disagrees because, Cordingley et al. discloses an improved thermal based laser method for processing a predetermined microstructure formed on a substrate without causing undesirable changes in electrical and physical characteristics of the substrate or other structures formed on the substrate.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Alexandra Elve whose telephone number is 571-272-1173. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 24, 2006.



M. Alexandra Elve
Primary Examiner 1725